



*Montana Fish,  
Wildlife & Parks*

# STATE OF MONTANA REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

RFP Number:  
100179

RFP Title:  
OVANDO MTN. FOREST MANAGEMENT PROJECT

RFP Response Due Date and Time:  
May 25, 2010  
2 PM, Local Time

Number of Pages: 33

## ISSUING AGENCY INFORMATION

Procurement Officer:  
RICK DORVALL

Issue Date:  
May 3, 2010

MONTANA DEPT. OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND  
PARKS  
930 CUSTER AVE. WEST  
P.O. BOX 200701  
HELENA, MT. 59620

Phone: 406-495-3249  
Fax: 406-495-3253

TTY Users, Dial 711

Website: <http://fwp.mt.gov/>

## INSTRUCTIONS TO OFFERORS

### Return Sealed Proposal to:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
Purchasing  
930 Custer Ave. West (Delivered)  
PO Box 200701 (Mailed)  
Helena, MT 59620

### Mark Face of Envelope/Package:

RFP Number: 100179  
RFP Response Due Date: May 25, 2010

Special Instructions:  
Note all requirements in Sections 3, 4 and 5.

## IMPORTANT: SEE STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS

## OFFERORS MUST COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING

Offeror Name/Address:

Authorized Offeror Signatory:

(Please print name and sign in ink)

Offeror Phone Number:

Offeror FAX Number:

Offeror E-mail Address:

Offeror Federal Tax ID#:

**OFFERORS MUST RETURN THIS COVER SHEET WITH RFP RESPONSE**

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## INSTRUCTIONS TO OFFERORS

### It is the responsibility of each offeror to:

**Follow the format required in the RFP** when preparing your response. Provide point-by-point responses to all sections in a clear and concise manner.

**Provide complete answers/descriptions.** Read and answer **all** questions and requirements. Don't assume the State or evaluator/evaluation committee will know what your company capabilities are or what items/services you can provide, even if you have previously contracted with the State. The proposals are evaluated based solely on the information and materials provided in your response.

**Use the forms provided**, i.e., cover page, sample budget form, certification forms, etc.

**Submit your response on time.** Note all the dates and times listed in the Schedule of Events and within the document, and be sure to submit all required items on time. Late proposal responses are **never** accepted.

**The following items MUST be included in the response to be considered responsive.  
Failure to include any of these items may result in a nonresponsive determination.**

**Signed Cover Sheet**

**Signed Addenda (if appropriate)**

**Address all mandatory requirements**

**Point-by-Point response to all sections and subsections**

**Response to Appendices A, B and C**

**Correctly executed State of Montana "Affidavit for Trade Secret Confidentiality" form if claiming information to be confidential or proprietary (per Section 2.2.1)**

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### EVENT

### DATE

RFP Issue Date..... 5/3/10

Deadline for Receipt of Written Questions ..... 5/10/10

Deadline for Posting Written Responses to the State's Website ..... 5/14/10

RFP Response Due Date ..... 5/25/10

## SECTION 1: PROJECT OVERVIEW AND INSTRUCTIONS

### 1.0 PROJECT OVERVIEW

The STATE OF MONTANA, DEPT. OF FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS (hereinafter referred to as “the State”) is seeking a contractor to provide the Ovando Mtn. Forest Management Project with the ability to manage forest land through cutting of timber to enhance wildlife habitat ; reduce fire risk and mitigate bug infestation. A more complete description of the services sought for this project is provided in Section 3, Scope of Project. Proposals submitted in response to this solicitation must comply with the instructions and procedures contained herein. Ovando Mtn. Is a portion of the Blackfoot-Clearwater WMA located 6 miles northeast of Ovando Montana (see attached maps, Figures 1 and 2).

### 1.1 CONTRACT TERM

The contract term is for a period of **eight (8)** months beginning on or around June 1 and ending January 31. Renewals of the contract, by mutual agreement of both parties, may be made at six (6) month intervals, or any interval that is advantageous to the State. This contract, including any renewals, may not exceed two (2) years, at the option of the State.

### 1.2 SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT

From the date this Request for Proposal (RFP) is issued until an offeror is selected and the selection is announced by the procurement officer, **offerors are not allowed to communicate with any state staff or officials regarding this procurement, except at the direction of Rick Dorvall**, the procurement officer in charge of the solicitation. Any unauthorized contact may disqualify the offeror from further consideration. Contact information for the single point of contact is as follows:

Procurement Officer: RICK DORVALL  
Address: 930 Custer Ave. West, Helena, MT 59620  
Telephone Number: 406-495-3249  
Fax Number: 406-495-3253  
E-mail Address: RDORVALL@MT.GOV

### 1.3 REQUIRED REVIEW

**1.3.1 Review RFP.** Offerors should carefully review the instructions, mandatory requirements, specifications, standard terms and conditions, and contract set out in this RFP and promptly notify the procurement officer identified above in writing or via e-mail of any ambiguity, inconsistency, unduly restrictive specifications, or error which they discover upon examination of this RFP. This should include any terms or requirements within the RFP that either preclude the offeror from responding to the RFP or add unnecessary cost. This notification must be accompanied by an explanation and suggested modification and be received by the deadline for receipt of written or e-mailed inquiries set forth below. The State will make any final determination of changes to the RFP.

**1.3.2 Form of Questions.** Offerors with questions or requiring clarification or interpretation of any section within this RFP must address these questions in writing or via e-mail to the procurement officer referenced above on or before **May 10, 2010, 12 Noon**. Each question must provide clear reference to the section, page, and item in question. Questions received after the deadline may not be considered.

**1.3.3 State's Response.** The State will provide an official written response by **May 14, 2010, 5 pm** to all questions received by **May 10, 2010, 12 Noon**. The State's response will be by formal written addendum.

Any other form of interpretation, correction, or change to this RFP will not be binding upon the State. Any formal written addendum will be posted on the State's OneStop Vendor Information website with the posting of the RFP at <http://svc.mt.gov/gsd/OneStop/SolicitationDefault.aspx> by the close of business on the date listed. **Offerors must sign and return with their RFP response an Acknowledgment of Addendum for any addendum issued.**

## **1.4 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

**1.4.1 Acceptance of Standard Terms and Conditions/Contract.** *By submitting a response to this RFP, offeror agrees to acceptance of the standard terms and conditions and contract as set out in Appendices A and B of this RFP.* Much of the language included in the standard terms and conditions and contract reflects requirements of Montana law. Requests for additions or exceptions to the standard terms and conditions, contract terms, including any necessary licenses, or any added provisions must be submitted to the procurement officer referenced above by the date for receipt of written/e-mailed questions. Any request must be accompanied by an explanation of why the exception is being sought and what specific effect it will have on the offeror's ability to respond to the RFP or perform the contract. The State reserves the right to address nonmaterial requests for exceptions with the highest scoring offeror during contract negotiation. Any material exceptions requested and granted to the standard terms and conditions and contract language will be addressed in any formal written addendum issued for this RFP and will apply to all offerors submitting a response to this RFP. The State will make any final determination of changes to the standard terms and conditions and/or contract.

**1.4.2 Resulting Contract.** This RFP and any addenda, the offeror's RFP response, including any amendments, a best and final offer, and any clarification question responses shall be included in any resulting contract. The State's contract, attached as Appendix B, contains the contract terms and conditions which will form the basis of any contract between the State and the highest scoring offeror. In the event of a dispute as to the duties and responsibilities of the parties under this contract, the contract, along with any attachments prepared by the State, will govern in the same order of precedence as listed in the contract.

**1.4.3 Understanding of Specifications and Requirements.** By submitting a response to this RFP, offeror agrees to an understanding of and compliance with the specifications and requirements described in this RFP.

**1.4.4 Prime Contractor/Subcontractors.** The highest scoring offeror will be the prime contractor if a contract is awarded and shall be responsible, in total, for all work of any subcontractors. All subcontractors, if any, must be listed in the proposal. The State reserves the right to approve all subcontractors. The Contractor shall be responsible to the State for the acts and omissions of all subcontractors or agents and of persons directly or indirectly employed by such subcontractors, and for the acts and omissions of persons employed directly by the Contractor. Further, nothing contained within this document or any contract documents created as a result of any contract awards derived from this RFP shall create any contractual relationships between any subcontractor and the State.

**1.4.5 Offeror's Signature.** The proposals must be signed in ink by an individual authorized to legally bind the business submitting the proposal. The offeror's signature on a proposal in response to this RFP guarantees that the offer has been established without collusion and without effort to preclude the State of Montana from obtaining the best possible supply or service. Proof of authority of the person signing the RFP response must be furnished upon request.

**1.4.6 Offer in Effect for 120 Days.** A proposal may not be modified, withdrawn, or canceled by the offeror for a 120-day period following the deadline for proposal submission as defined in the Schedule of Events, or receipt of best and final offer, if required, and offeror so agrees in submitting the proposal.

## **1.5 SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL**

**1.5.1 Organization of Proposal.** Offerors must organize their proposal into sections that follow the format of this RFP, with tabs separating each section. ***A point-by-point response to all numbered sections, subsections, and appendices is required.*** If no explanation or clarification is required in the offeror's response to a specific subsection, the offeror shall indicate so in the point-by-point response, or utilize a blanket response for the entire section, with the following statement:

**“(Offeror's Name)” understands and will comply.**

An offeror making the statement “Refer to our literature...” or “Please see www.....com” may be deemed nonresponsive or receive point deductions. If making reference to materials located in another section of the RFP response, specific page numbers and sections must be noted. **The Evaluator/Evaluation Committee is not required to search through literature or another section of the proposal to find a response.**

**1.5.2 Failure to Comply with Instructions.** Offerors failing to comply with these instructions may be subject to point deductions. The State may also choose to not evaluate, may deem nonresponsive, and/or may disqualify from further consideration any proposals that do not follow this RFP format, are difficult to understand, are difficult to read, or are missing any requested information.

**1.5.3 Multiple Proposals.** Offerors may, at their option, submit multiple proposals, in which case each proposal shall be evaluated as a separate document.

**1.5.5 Copies Required and Deadline for Receipt of Proposals.** Offerors must submit **one original proposal and three copies** to the FWP Purchasing Officer. FWP reserves the right to request an electronic copy of the RFP response. **PROPOSALS MUST BE SEALED AND LABELED ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE PACKAGE** to clearly indicate that they are in response to **RFP# 100179**. ***Proposals must be received at the receptionist's desk of the FWP Purchasing Officer prior to 2 pm, local time, May 25, 2010. Facsimile responses to requests for proposals are ONLY accepted on an exception basis with prior approval of the procurement officer.***

**1.5.6 Late Proposals.** ***Regardless of cause, late proposals will not be accepted and will automatically be disqualified from further consideration.*** It shall be the offeror's sole risk to assure delivery at the receptionist's desk at the designated office by the designated time. Late proposals will not be opened and may be returned to the offeror at the expense of the offeror or destroyed if requested.

## **1.6 COST OF PREPARING A PROPOSAL**

**1.6.1 State Not Responsible for Preparation Costs.** The costs for developing and delivering responses to this RFP and any subsequent presentations of the proposal as requested by the State are entirely the responsibility of the offeror. The State is not liable for any expense incurred by the offeror in the preparation and presentation of their proposal or any other costs incurred by the offeror prior to execution of a contract.

**1.6.2 All Timely Submitted Materials Become State Property.** All materials submitted in response to this RFP become the property of the State and are to be appended to any formal documentation, which would further define or expand any contractual relationship between the State and offeror resulting from this RFP process.

## SECTION 2: RFP STANDARD INFORMATION

### **2.0 AUTHORITY**

This RFP is issued under the authority of section 18-4-304, MCA (Montana Code Annotated) and ARM 2.5.602 (Administrative Rules of Montana). The RFP process is a procurement option allowing the award to be based on stated evaluation criteria. The RFP states the relative importance of all evaluation criteria. Only the evaluation criteria outlined in this RFP will be used.

### **2.1 OFFEROR COMPETITION**

The State encourages free and open competition among offerors. Whenever possible, the State will design specifications, proposal requests, and conditions to accomplish this objective, consistent with the necessity to satisfy the State's need to procure technically sound, cost-effective services and supplies.

### **2.2 RECEIPT OF PROPOSALS AND PUBLIC INSPECTION**

**2.2.1 Public Information.** All information received in response to this RFP, including copyrighted material, is deemed public information and will be made available for public viewing and copying shortly after the time for receipt of proposals has passed with the following three exceptions: (1) bona fide trade secrets meeting the requirements of the Uniform Trade Secrets Act, Title 30, chapter 14, part 4, MCA, that have been properly marked, separated, and documented; (2) matters involving individual safety as determined by the State; and (3) other constitutional protections. See section 18-4-304, MCA. The State will make a copier available for interested parties to use at \$0.25 per page. The interested party is responsible for the cost of copies and to provide personnel to do the copying.

**2.2.2 Procurement Officer Review of Proposals.** Upon opening the proposals received in response to this RFP, the procurement officer in charge of the solicitation will review the proposals and separate out any information that meets the referenced exceptions in Section 2.2.1 above, providing the following conditions have been met:

- Confidential information is clearly marked and separated from the rest of the proposal.
- The proposal does not contain confidential material in the cost or price section.
- An affidavit from an offeror's legal counsel attesting to and explaining the validity of the trade secret claim as set out in Title 30, chapter 14, part 4, MCA, is attached to each proposal containing trade secrets. Counsel must use the State of Montana "Affidavit for Trade Secret Confidentiality" form in requesting the trade secret claim. This affidavit form is available on the OneStop Vendor Information website at: <http://svc.mt.gov/gsd/OneStop/GSDDocuments.aspx> or by calling (406) 444-2575.

Information separated out under this process will be available for review only by the procurement officer, the evaluator/evaluation committee members, and limited other designees. Offerors must be prepared to pay all legal costs and fees associated with defending a claim for confidentiality in the event of a "right to know" (open records) request from another party.

### **2.3 CLASSIFICATION AND EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS**

**2.3.1 Initial Classification of Proposals as Responsive or Nonresponsive.** All proposals will initially be classified as either "responsive" or "nonresponsive," in accordance with ARM 2.5.602. Proposals may be found nonresponsive at any time during the procurement process if any of the required information is not provided; the submitted price is found to be excessive or inadequate as measured by criteria stated in the



RFP; or the proposal is not within the plans and specifications described and required in the RFP. If a proposal is found to be nonresponsive, it will not be considered further.

**2.3.2 Determination of Responsibility.** The procurement officer will determine whether an offeror has met the standards of responsibility in accordance with ARM 2.5.407. Such a determination may be made at any time during the procurement process if information surfaces that would result in a determination of nonresponsibility. If an offeror is found nonresponsive, the determination must be in writing, made a part of the procurement file, and mailed to the affected offeror.

**2.3.3 Evaluation of Proposals.** An evaluator/evaluation committee will evaluate the remaining proposals and recommend whether to award the contract to the highest scoring offeror or, if necessary, to seek discussion/negotiation or a best and final offer in order to determine the highest scoring offeror. All responsive proposals will be evaluated based on stated evaluation criteria. In scoring against stated criteria, the State may consider such factors as accepted industry standards and a comparative evaluation of all other qualified RFP responses in terms of differing price, quality, and contractual factors. These scores will be used to determine the most advantageous offering to the State. If an evaluation committee meets to deliberate and evaluate the proposals, the public may attend and observe the evaluation committee deliberations.

**2.3.4 Completeness of Proposals.** Selection and award will be based on the offeror's proposal and other items outlined in this RFP. Submitted responses may not include references to information located elsewhere, such as Internet websites or libraries, unless specifically requested. Information or materials presented by offerors outside the formal response or subsequent discussion/negotiation or best and final offer, if requested, will not be considered, will have no bearing on any award, and may result in the offeror being disqualified from further consideration.

**2.3.5 Opportunity for Discussion/Negotiation and/or Oral Presentation/Product Demonstration.** After receipt of all proposals and prior to the determination of the award, the State may initiate discussions with one or more offerors should clarification or negotiation be necessary. Offerors may also be required to make an oral presentation and/or product demonstration to clarify their RFP response or to further define their offer. In either case, offerors should be prepared to send qualified personnel to Helena, Montana, to discuss technical and contractual aspects of the proposal. Oral presentations and product demonstrations, if requested, shall be at the offeror's expense.

**2.3.6 Best and Final Offer.** The Best and Final Offer is an option available to the State under the RFP process, which permits the State to request a best and final offer from one or more offerors if additional information is required to make a final decision. Offerors may be contacted asking that they submit their best and final offer, which must include any and all discussed and/or negotiated changes. The State reserves the right to request a best and final offer for this RFP, if any, based on price/cost alone.

**2.3.7 Evaluator/Evaluation Committee Recommendation for Contract Award.** The evaluator/evaluation committee will provide a written recommendation for contract award to the procurement officer that contains the scores, justification, and rationale for the decision. The procurement officer will review the recommendation to ensure its compliance with the RFP process and criteria before concurring in the evaluator's/evaluation committee's recommendation of the responsive and responsible offeror that achieves the highest score and is, therefore, the most advantageous to the State.

**2.3.8 Request for Documents Notice.** Upon concurrence with the evaluator's/evaluation committee's recommendation, the procurement officer will issue a "Request for Documents Notice" to the highest scoring offeror to obtain the required documents/information, such as insurance documents, contract performance security, an electronic copy of any requested material, i.e., RFP response, response to clarification questions, and/or best and final offer, and any other necessary documents. Receipt of the "Request for Documents Notice" does not constitute a contract and **no work may begin until a contract signed by all parties is in place.** The procurement officer will notify all other offerors of the State's selection.

**2.3.9 Contract Execution.** Upon receipt of all required materials requested in the "Request for Documents Notice," a formal contract utilizing the contract attached as Appendix B and incorporating the Standard Terms and Conditions attached as Appendix A, as well as the highest scoring offeror's response to the RFP, will be provided to the highest scoring offeror for signature. The highest scoring offeror will be expected to accept and agree to all material requirements contained in the contract and set out in Appendices A and B of this RFP. If the highest scoring offeror does not accept all material requirements, the State may move to the next highest scoring offeror, or cancel the RFP. Work under the contract may begin when the contract is fully executed, i.e., when the contract is signed by all parties.

## **2.4 STATE'S RIGHTS RESERVED**

While the State has every intention to award a contract as a result of this RFP, issuance of the RFP in no way constitutes a commitment by the State of Montana to award and execute a contract. Upon a determination such actions would be in its best interest, the State, in its sole discretion, reserves the right to:

- Cancel or terminate this RFP (section 18-4-307, MCA);
- Reject any or all proposals received in response to this RFP (ARM 2.5.602);
- Waive any undesirable, inconsequential, or inconsistent provisions of this RFP which would not have significant impact on any proposal (ARM 2.5.505);
- Not award if it is in the best interest of the State not to proceed with contract execution (ARM 2.5.602); or
- If awarded, terminate any contract if the State determines adequate state funds are not available (section 18-4-313, MCA).

## SECTION 3: SCOPE OF PROJECT

### 3.0 SCOPE OF PROJECT

HB 42, passed by the 2009 Montana Legislature, directs Montana FWP to develop forest management strategies, in this case for wildlife management areas, to manage for wildlife habitat, fire prevention, and bug kill. This RFP is specifically looking for a forest management company to administer a timber sale on the Ovando Mountain portion of the Blackfoot-Clearwater WMA. The company may administer the sale and hire a company to conduct the treatments or the company may carry out the entire project.

### 3.1 HABITAT MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS

Stands to be treated are located in FWP-owned S9 & S10 T15N R11W, BCWMA Ovando Mtn Unit (Figures 1, 2).

- Treatments will occur within 8 distinct stands (365 total acres, Figure 2). Treatments may be accomplished with a combination of skyline and tractor operations as necessary to minimize ground disturbance. Slash may be either chipped/ground and broadcast, removed, or burned on-site. New road construction should be minimized and new roads should be obliterated following treatment; temporary road construction and obliteration is the responsibility of the contractor. All road obliteration will be completed by December of 2010; obliteration will consist of removing the road prism, recontouring, grass seeding and distributing slash on top of the re-contoured surface. Contractor is required to re-seed all obliterated roads and disturbed sites with an approved native seed mix; seeding must occur prior to Nov 1, 2010. No-cut buffers will be maintained 100 feet each side of riparian areas (perennial or intermittent streams). Snags greater than 12" dbh should be retained.

The units to be treated are as follows:

- Unit 60 – 39 ac., 30 – 60% slopes.  
Current condition - Mature ponderosa pine/Doug. fir dominant, dense Douglas fir (100-400 stems per ac. 80 – 160 avg. basal area per ac.  
Treatment – Variable retention thinning to a BA of 20 – 80 sq. ft. residual. Retention should favor older age class Doug fir, ponderosa pine and western larch. Retain Douglas fir, ponderosa pine and larch > 24" dbh to the extent possible to meet BA prescription.
- Unit 61 – 5 ac., 10 – 40% slopes.  
Current condition – Primarily mature ponderosa pine/Doug fir overstory with lesser lodgepole/spruce/sub-alpine fir, dense Doug fir (100 – 400) stems per ac. 80 – 160 avg. basal area per ac.  
Treatment – Variable retention thinning to a BA of 20 – 80 sq. ft. residual. Retention should favor older age class Doug fir, ponderosa pine and western larch. Retain Douglas fir, ponderosa pine and larch > 24" dbh to the extent possible to meet BA prescription.
- Unit 62 – 51 ac., 30 – 60% slopes.  
Current condition – Contiguous aspen with significant conifer encroachment.  
Treatment – Hand slash all conifers <24" dbh within and immediately adjacent to this stand. Non-commercial; the intent of this treatment is to remove encroaching conifers from this stand. No roads should be constructed within this stand; slash should be left on-site.
- Unit 63 – 61 ac., 30 – 60% slopes.  
Current condition – Mature ponderosa pine/Doug. fir dominant, dense Doug fir (100 – 400) stems per ac. 80 – 160 sq. ft. avg. basal area per ac.  
Treatment – Thin to a BA of 20 – 80 sq. ft. residual. Retention should favor older age class Doug fir,

ponderosa pine and western larch. Retain Douglas fir, ponderosa pine and larch > 24" dbh to the extent possible to meet BA prescription.

- Unit 64 – 72 ac., 20 – 60% slopes.  
Current condition – Primarily mature Doug fir overstory with dense Doug fir understory. Recent wind event caused significant blowdown, attracting Doug fir beetles. Some lodgepole/subalpine fir in west and northeast portions of stand. 100 – 250 sq. ft. per ac. BA, average. Regeneration 100 – 300 trees/ac.  
Treatment – Thin to a mean BA of 100 sq. ft. per ac. Retain older age class Douglas fir as variable patch mosaic; retain Douglas fir, ponderosa pine and larch > 24" dbh to the extent possible while meeting the BA prescription. Salvage timber from wind event, as feasible.
- Unit 66 – 39 ac., 30 – 60% slopes.  
Current condition – Intermediate to mature Douglas fir, lodgepole pine, larch, with lesser mature ponderosa pine. 80 – 160 sq. ft. per ac. BA, average. Regeneration 100 – 300 trees/ac.  
Treatment – Variable retention thinning to a BA of 20 – 80 sq. ft. residual. Retention should favor older age class Doug fir, ponderosa pine and western larch. Retain Douglas fir, ponderosa pine and larch > 24" dbh to the extent possible to meet BA prescription.
- Unit 67 – 65 ac., 0 – 60% slopes.  
Current condition – Mix of lodgepole pine and Douglas fir with lesser amounts of ponderosa pine. 80 – 160 sq. ft. per ac. BA, average. Regeneration 100 – 300 trees/ac.  
Treatment – Group selection harvest; mosaic of patches ½ - 1 ac. in size and comprising > 15% of treatment area will be retained. Harvest will be focused on diseased trees in less steep terrain.
- Unit 99 – 33 ac., 20 – 60% slopes.  
Current condition – Stand is a combination of dense lodgepole pine and intermediate to mature Douglas fir, larch, and ponderosa pine. Significant mountain pine beetle infestation of lodgepole pine. 80 – 160 sq. ft. per ac. BA, average. Regeneration 100 – 300 trees/ac.  
Treatment – Group selection treatment of lodgepole pine. Retain older age class Douglas fir, larch, and ponderosa pine at 20 – 80 sq. ft. per ac. Retain Douglas fir, ponderosa pine and larch > 24" dbh to the extent possible to meet BA prescription.

### **3.2 CONTRACTOR OBLIGATIONS**

- The contractor is providing all manpower; equipments; fuels and materials.
- Follow Habitat Management prescriptions noted above, with regular contact with FWP to discuss how closely the prescriptions can actually be followed.
- Provide timber value estimates for each stand that is part of contract at the beginning of project. FWP MUST RECEIVE FAIR MARKET VALUE OF TIMBER FROM MILL. Contractor will then be paid from the timber receipts. Therefore Contractor must obtain State Fair Market Value from Mill and have that cash on hand as the project revenue.
- Provide written cost estimates for implementation of each stand objective, including road construction/upgrade and obliteration; slash disposal; post project weed management; rehabilitation of disturbed areas. This will be reported in two phases: Phase I is cost of timber cruise; cost estimates oversight and reporting. Phase II is the logging and restoration.
- Provide a competitive bid process following State procedures for logging/clean up/rehabilitation if Contractor does not perform these duties himself.
- Provide monthly accounting to the State for cost for work performed; revenue generated and general administration of payments and revenue for all aspects of contract.
- Maintain regular communication with the local FWP wildlife biologist to address any concerns with the project during and after logging operations and to make any adjustments to the implementation of the project.

- All decisions regarding selection of subcontractors, disbursement of funds, and all project administration shall be conveyed to the State. The State reserves the right to alter these decisions as it deems necessary.

### **3.3 FWP OBLIGATIONS**

- FWP will provide oversight based on the documentation entitled "Forest Habitat Improvement Plan for the Ovando Mountain Unit of the Blackfoot-Clearwater Wildlife Management Area"; Figures 1 & 2 in RFP; and FWP objectives identified by stand as described above.
- FWP liaison will be available as needed to answer questions and give directions.

### **3.4 CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS**

- All costs will be attempted to be paid for by revenues generated by the sale of timber products.
- Contract stipulations for road building and obliteration and weed control: All new roads built to minimum standards and to be obliterated after project. Seeded with native seed mix per FWP liaison. Spray existing weeds within areas of tree cutting, roads and other disturbed areas.
- Deadline for all logging activity is December 31, 2010.
- Written summary of work by stand number as indicated above: state final basal area; identify bug killed trees removed by general area on a map; patch cut locations within lodgepole pine shown on map; identify aspen clone where conifers were removed on a map. Representative pictures will suffice.
- Documentation of quantity of timber cut by stand number from timber mill receipts.
- Contractor will adhere to Forestry BMP's; Streamside Management Zone law; and Hazard Reduction Agreement.
- Three hard copy reports and one CD will be form of report delivery.

**Project outcome will be the attainment of defined Stand Habitat Objectives as stated above.**

## **SECTION 4: OFFEROR QUALIFICATIONS/INFORMATIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

### **4.0 STATE'S RIGHT TO INVESTIGATE AND REJECT**

The State may make such investigations as deemed necessary to determine the ability of the offeror to provide the supplies and/or perform the services specified. The State reserves the right to reject any proposal if the evidence submitted by, or investigation of, the offeror fails to satisfy the State that the offeror is properly qualified to carry out the obligations of the contract. *This includes the State's ability to reject the proposal based on negative references.*

### **4.1 OFFEROR QUALIFICATIONS/INFORMATIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

In order for the State to determine the capabilities of an offeror to provide the supplies and/or perform the services specified in Section 3 above, the offeror must respond to the following requests for information regarding its ability to meet the State's requirements. **THE RESPONSE, "(OFFEROR'S NAME) UNDERSTANDS AND WILL COMPLY," IS NOT APPROPRIATE FOR THIS SECTION.**

**NOTE: Each item must be thoroughly addressed. Offerors taking exception to any requirements listed in this section may be found nonresponsive or be subject to point deductions.**

#### **4.1.1 RESUME/COMPANY PROFILE AND QUALIFICATIONS**

- Years of Experience in Timber sale administration; logging; forest planning must be a minimum of 10 years.
- Past Projects. Provide 3 references within last 3 years in which company has successfully completed similar work as requested in this RFP.
- Staff Qualifications. A summary of work experience and skill which emphasize work requested under this RFP.

**4.1.2 Method of Providing Services.** Offeror shall provide a work plan and the methods to be used that will convincingly demonstrate to the State what the offeror intends to do; the timeframes necessary to accomplish the work; and how the work will be accomplished to meet the contract requirements as more specifically detailed above in Section 3. Offeror must specifically address each of the following requirements as defined in this RFP:

- **THINNING INDICATED STANDS TO STATED BASAL AREA WITH APPROPRIATE RETENTION OF OLDER AGE CLASS DOUGLAS FIR, LARCH, AND PONDEROSA PINE.**
- **PATCH CUTTING LODGEPOLE PINE STANDS.**
- **REMOVING CONIFERS FROM ASPEN STAND (STAND 62).**
- **ROAD NEEDS: BOTH ROAD IMPROVEMENT, TEMPORARY ROAD CONSTRUCTION, AND OBLITERATION OF TEMPORARY ROADS**
- **WEED CONTROL**
- **MEETING HRA REQUIREMENTS FOR SLASH DISPOSAL**
- **MEETING FORESTRY BMP'S**
- **MEETING SMZ LAW**

## SECTION 5: COST PROPOSAL

1. FWP will use Task Order basis (hourly rates) with an initial estimate of whether project will generate revenue or cost the state money, and an estimate of gain or loss by timber stand.
2. Company will inform FWP of monthly costs incurred and dollars generated.
3. FWP will determine whether project can continue to proceed based on the cost/revenue ratio. FWP would like project to be revenue neutral.
4. FWP will receive copies of timber mill receipts monthly.
5. At the end of the project, contractor will remit to FWP unused revenue or FWP will reimburse contractor for incurred costs not covered by timber revenue.

Project Budget will not exceed \$99,000.

Cost/Revenue Unit 60:\_\_\_\_\_

Cost/Revenue Unit 61:\_\_\_\_\_

Cost/Revenue Unit 62:\_\_\_\_\_

Cost/Revenue Unit 63:\_\_\_\_\_

Cost/Revenue Unit 64:\_\_\_\_\_

Cost/Revenue Unit 66:\_\_\_\_\_

Cost/Revenue Unit 67:\_\_\_\_\_

Cost/Revenue Unit 99:\_\_\_\_\_

Total Cost/Revenue for all Units at Project Completion:\_\_\_\_\_

## SECTION 6: EVALUATION PROCESS

### 6.0 BASIS OF EVALUATION

The evaluator/evaluation committee will review and evaluate the offers according to the following criteria based on a total number of **1000 points**.

The **References, Resumes/Company Profile and Experience, Ability to Meet Supply Specifications, and Method of Providing Services** portions of the offer will be evaluated based on the following Scoring Guide. The **Cost Proposal** will be evaluated based on the formula set forth below.

**Any response that fails to achieve a passing score per the requirements of Section 2.3.5 will be eliminated from further consideration. A "fail" for any individual evaluation criterion may result in proposal disqualification at the discretion of the procurement officer.**

#### SCORING GUIDE

In awarding points to the evaluation criteria, the evaluator/evaluation committee will consider the following guidelines:

Years of experience and past projects will be a pass/fail based on the information provided. See Section 4.1.1.

**Superior Response (90-100%):** A superior response is a highly comprehensive, excellent reply that meets all of the requirements of the RFP. In addition, the response may cover areas not originally addressed within the RFP and/or include additional information and recommendations that would prove both valuable and beneficial to the agency.

**Good Response (75-89%):** A good response meets all the requirements of the RFP and demonstrates in a clear and concise manner a thorough knowledge and understanding of the project, with no deficiencies noted.

**Fair Response (60-74%):** A fair response minimally meets most requirements set forth in the RFP. The offeror demonstrates some ability to comply with guidelines and requirements of the project, but knowledge of the subject matter is limited.

**Failed Response (59% or less):** A failed response does not meet the requirements set forth in the RFP. The offeror has not demonstrated sufficient knowledge of the subject matter.



## 6.1 EVALUATION CRITERIA

| Resumes/Company Profile and Experience |                |  | 10 % of points for a possible 100__ points |
|--|----------------|--|--|
| Category                               | Section of RFP |  | Point Value                                |
| A. Years of Experience                 | 4.1.1          |  | Pass/Fail                                  |
| B. Past Projects                       | 4.1.1          |  | Pass/Fail                                  |
| C. Staff Qualifications                | 4.1.1          |  | 100  |

| Method of Providing Services |                |  | 40 % of points for a possible 400__ points |
|------------------------------|----------------|--|--|
| Category                     | Section of RFP |  | Point Value                                |
| A. Methods                   | 4.1.2          |  | 100  |
| B. Work Plan                 | 4.1.2          |  | 300  |

| Cost Proposal    |                |  | 50 % of points for a possible 500__ points |
|------------------|----------------|--|--|
| Category         | Section of RFP |  | Point Value                                |
| A. Cost Proposal | 5.0            |  | 500  |

Lowest overall cost receives the maximum allotted points. All other proposals receive a percentage of the points available based on their cost relationship to the lowest. Example: Total possible points for cost are 30. Offeror A's cost is \$20,000. Offeror B's cost is \$30,000. Offeror A would receive 30 points, Offeror B would receive 20 points ( $\$20,000/\$30,000 = 67\% \times 30 \text{ points} = 20$ ).

$$\frac{\text{Lowest Responsive Offer Total Cost}}{\text{This Offeror's Total Cost}} \times \text{Number of available points} = \text{Award Points}$$

## APPENDIX A: STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS

### Standard Terms and Conditions

**By submitting a response to this invitation for bid, request for proposal, limited solicitation, or acceptance of a contract, the vendor agrees to acceptance of the following Standard Terms and Conditions and any other provisions that are specific to this solicitation or contract.**

**ACCEPTANCE/REJECTION OF BIDS, PROPOSALS, OR LIMITED SOLICITATION RESPONSES:** The State reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, proposals, or limited solicitation responses, wholly or in part, and to make awards in any manner deemed in the best interest of the State. Bids, proposals, and limited solicitation responses will be firm for 30 days, unless stated otherwise in the text of the invitation for bid, request for proposal, or limited solicitation.

**ACCESS AND RETENTION OF RECORDS:** The contractor agrees to provide the department, Legislative Auditor, or their authorized agents, access to any records necessary to determine contract compliance. (Section 18-1-118, MCA). The contractor agrees to create and retain records supporting the services rendered or supplies delivered for a period of three years after either the completion date of the contract or the conclusion of any claim, litigation, or exception relating to the contract taken by the State of Montana or third party.

**ALTERATION OF SOLICITATION DOCUMENT:** In the event of inconsistencies or contradictions between language contained in the State's solicitation document and a vendor's response, the language contained in the State's original solicitation document will prevail. Intentional manipulation and/or alteration of solicitation document language will result in the vendor's disqualification and possible debarment.

**ASSIGNMENT, TRANSFER AND SUBCONTRACTING:** The contractor shall not assign, transfer or subcontract any portion of the contract without the express written consent of the department. (Section 18-4-141, MCA.)

**AUTHORITY:** The attached bid, request for proposal, limited solicitation, or contract is issued under authority of Title 18, Montana Code Annotated, and the Administrative Rules of Montana, Title 2, chapter 5.

**COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS:** The contractor must, in performance of work under the contract, fully comply with all applicable federal, state, or local laws, rules and regulations, including the Montana Human Rights Act, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Any subletting or subcontracting by the contractor subjects subcontractors to the same provision. In accordance with section 49-3-207, MCA, the contractor agrees that the hiring of persons to perform the contract will be made on the basis of merit and qualifications and there will be no discrimination based upon race, color, religion, creed, political ideas, sex, age, marital status, physical or mental disability, or national origin by the persons performing the contract.

**CONFORMANCE WITH CONTRACT:** No alteration of the terms, conditions, delivery, price, quality, quantities, or specifications of the contract shall be granted without prior written consent of the State Procurement Bureau. Supplies delivered which do not conform to the contract terms, conditions, and specifications may be rejected and returned at the contractor's expense.

**DEBARMENT:** The contractor certifies, by submitting this bid or proposal, that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction (contract) by any governmental department or agency. If the contractor cannot certify this statement, attach a written explanation for review by the State.

**DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS:** The State of Montana does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operations of its programs, services, or activities. Individuals who need aids, alternative document formats, or services for effective communications or other disability related accommodations in the programs and services offered are invited to make their needs and preferences known to this office. Interested parties should provide as much advance notice as possible.

**FACSIMILE RESPONSES:** Facsimile responses will be accepted for invitations for bids, small purchases, or limited solicitations ONLY if they are completely received by the State Procurement Bureau prior to the time set for receipt. Bids, or portions thereof, received after the due time will not be considered. Facsimile responses to requests for proposals are ONLY accepted on an exception basis with prior approval of the procurement officer.

**FAILURE TO HONOR BID/PROPOSAL:** If a bidder/offeror to whom a contract is awarded refuses to accept the award (PO/contract) or fails to deliver in accordance with the contract terms and conditions, the department may, in its discretion, suspend the bidder/offeror for a period of time from entering into any contracts with the State of Montana.

**FORCE MAJEURE:** Neither party shall be responsible for failure to fulfill its obligations due to causes beyond its reasonable control, including without limitation, acts or omissions of government or military authority, acts of God, materials shortages, transportation delays, fires, floods, labor disturbances, riots, wars, terrorist acts, or any other causes, directly or indirectly beyond the reasonable control of the nonperforming party, so long as such party is using its best efforts to remedy such failure or delays.

**HOLD HARMLESS/INDEMNIFICATION:** The contractor agrees to protect, defend, and save the State, its elected and appointed officials, agents, and employees, while acting within the scope of their duties as such, harmless from and against all claims, demands, causes of action of any kind or character, including the cost of defense thereof, arising in favor of the contractor's employees or third parties on account of bodily or personal injuries, death, or damage to property arising out of services performed or omissions of services or in any way resulting from the acts or omissions of the contractor and/or its agents, employees, representatives, assigns, subcontractors, except the sole negligence of the State, under this agreement.

**LATE BIDS AND PROPOSALS:** Regardless of cause, late bids and proposals will not be accepted and will automatically be disqualified from further consideration. It shall be solely the vendor's risk to ensure delivery at the designated office by the designated time. Late bids and proposals will not be opened and may be returned to the vendor at the expense of the vendor or destroyed if requested.

**PAYMENT TERM:** All payment terms will be computed from the date of delivery of supplies or services OR receipt of a properly executed invoice, whichever is later. Unless otherwise noted in the solicitation document, the State is allowed 30 days to pay such invoices. All contractors will be required to provide banking information at the time of contract execution in order to facilitate State electronic funds transfer payments.

**RECIPROCAL PREFERENCE:** The State of Montana applies a reciprocal preference against a vendor submitting a bid from a state or country that grants a residency preference to its resident businesses. A reciprocal preference is only applied to an invitation for bid for supplies or an invitation for bid for nonconstruction services for public works as defined in section 18-2-401(9), MCA, and then only if federal funds are not involved. For a list of states that grant resident preference, see <http://gsd.mt.gov/ProcurementServices/preferences.mcp.x>.

**REDUCTION OF FUNDING:** The State must terminate this contract if funds are not appropriated or otherwise made available to support the State's continuation of performance in a subsequent fiscal period. (See section 18-4-313(4), MCA.)

**REFERENCE TO CONTRACT:** The contract or purchase order number MUST appear on all invoices, packing lists, packages, and correspondence pertaining to the contract.

**REGISTRATION WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE:** Any business intending to transact business in Montana must register with the Secretary of State. Businesses that are incorporated in another state or country, but which are conducting activity in Montana, must determine whether they are transacting business in Montana in accordance with sections 35-1-1026 and 35-8-1001, MCA. Such businesses may want to obtain the guidance of their attorney or accountant to determine whether their activity is considered transacting business.

If businesses determine that they are transacting business in Montana, they must register with the Secretary of State and obtain a certificate of authority to demonstrate that they are in good standing in Montana. To obtain registration materials, call the Office of the Secretary of State at (406) 444-3665, or visit their website at <http://sos.mt.gov>.

**SEPARABILITY CLAUSE:** A declaration by any court, or any other binding legal source, that any provision of the contract is illegal and void shall not affect the legality and enforceability of any other provision of the contract, unless the provisions are mutually dependent.

**SHIPPING:** Supplies shall be shipped prepaid, F.O.B. Destination, unless the contract specifies otherwise.

**SOLICITATION DOCUMENT EXAMINATION:** Vendors shall promptly notify the State of any ambiguity, inconsistency, or error which they may discover upon examination of a solicitation document.

**TAX EXEMPTION:** The State of Montana is exempt from Federal Excise Taxes (#81-0302402).

**TECHNOLOGY ACCESS FOR BLIND OR VISUALLY IMPAIRED:** Contractor acknowledges that no state funds may be expended for the purchase of information technology equipment and software for use by employees, program participants, or members of the public unless it provides blind or visually impaired individuals with access, including interactive use of the equipment and services, that is equivalent to that provided to individuals who are not blind or visually impaired. (Section 18-5-603, MCA.) Contact the State Procurement Bureau at (406) 444-2575 for more information concerning nonvisual access standards.

**TERMINATION OF CONTRACT:** Unless otherwise stated, the State may, by written notice to the contractor, terminate the contract in whole or in part at any time the contractor fails to perform the contract.

**U.S. FUNDS:** All prices and payments must be in U.S. dollars.

**VENUE:** This solicitation is governed by the laws of Montana. The parties agree that any litigation concerning this bid, request for proposal, limited solicitation, or subsequent contract, must be brought in the First Judicial District in and for the County of Lewis and Clark, State of Montana, and each party shall pay its own costs and attorney fees. (Section 18-1-401, MCA.)

**WARRANTIES:** The contractor warrants that items offered will conform to the specifications requested, to be fit and sufficient for the purpose manufactured, of good material and workmanship, and free from defect. Items offered must be new and unused and of the latest model or manufacture, unless otherwise specified by the State. They shall be equal in quality and performance to those indicated herein. Descriptions used herein are specified solely for the purpose of indicating standards of quality, performance, and/or use desired. Exceptions will be rejected.

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Revised 2/10

## APPENDIX B: CONTRACT

1. Parties
2. Effective Date, Duration, and Renewal
3. Cost/Price Adjustments
4. Services and/or Supplies
5. Consideration/Payment
6. Access and Retention of Records
7. Assignment, Transfer, and Subcontracting
8. Hold Harmless/Indemnification
9. Required Insurance
10. Compliance with Workers' Compensation Act
11. Compliance with Laws
12. Contract Termination
13. Liaison and Service of Notices
14. Meetings
15. Contractor Performance Assessments
16. Transition Assistance
17. Choice of Law and Venue
18. Scope, Amendment, and Interpretation
19. Execution



**OVANDO MTN. FOREST MANAGEMENT**  
**(INSERT CONTRACT NUMBER)**

**1. PARTIES**

THIS CONTRACT is entered into by and between the State of Montana **FWP** (hereinafter referred to as "the State"), whose address and phone number are **1420 EAST SIXTH AVE. 4064444717** and **(insert name of contractor)**, (hereinafter referred to as the "Contractor"), whose address and phone number are **(insert address)** and **(insert phone number)**.

**THE PARTIES AGREE AS FOLLOWS:**

**2. EFFECTIVE DATE, DURATION, AND RENEWAL**

**2.1 Contract Term.** This contract shall take effect **upon contract execution** and terminate on **Jan.1 20(11)**, unless terminated earlier in accordance with the terms of this contract. (Section 18-4-313, MCA)

**2.2 Contract Renewal.** This contract may, upon mutual agreement between the parties and according to the terms of the existing contract, be renewed in **SIX MONTH** intervals, or any interval that is advantageous to the State. This contract, including any renewals, may not exceed a total of 2 years.

**3. COST/PRICE ADJUSTMENTS.** Any price adjustments will be by mutual agreement by both parties and done by written addendum only.

**4. SERVICES AND/OR SUPPLIES**

Stands to be treated are located in FWP-owned S9 & S10 T15N R11W, BCWMA Ovando Mtn Unit (Figures 1, 2).

Treatments will occur within 8 distinct stands (365 total acres, Figure 2). Treatments may be accomplished with a combination of skyline and tractor operations as necessary to minimize ground disturbance. Slash may be either chipped/ground and broadcast, removed, or burned on-site. New road construction should be minimized and new roads should be obliterated following treatment; temporary road construction and obliteration is the responsibility of the contractor. All road obliteration will be completed by December of 2010; obliteration will consist of removing the road prism, recontouring, grass seeding and distributing slash on top of the recontoured surface. Contractor is required to re-seed all obliterated roads and disturbed sites with an approved native seed mix; seeding must occur prior to Nov 1, 2010. No-cut buffers will be maintained 100 feet each side of riparian areas (perennial or intermittent streams). Snags greater than 12" dbh should be retained.

The units to be treated are as follows:

**Unit 60** – 39 ac., 30 – 60% slopes.

Current condition - Mature ponderosa pine/Doug. fir dominant, dense Douglas fir (100 – 400) stems per ac. 80 – 160 avg. basal area per ac.

Treatment – Variable retention thinning to a BA of 20 – 80 sq. ft. residual. Retention should favor older age class Doug fir, ponderosa pine and western larch. Retain Douglas fir, ponderosa pine and larch > 24" dbh to the extent possible to meet BA prescription.

**Unit 61** – 5 ac., 10 – 40% slopes.

Current condition – Primarily mature ponderosa pine/Doug fir overstory with lesser lodgepole/spruce/sub-alpine fir, dense Doug fir (100 – 400) stems per ac. 80 – 160 avg. basal area per ac.

Treatment – Variable retention thinning to a BA of 20 – 80 sq. ft. residual. Retention should favor older age class Doug fir, ponderosa pine and western larch. Retain Douglas fir, ponderosa pine and larch > 24" dbh to the extent possible to meet BA prescription.

Unit 62 – 51 ac., 30 – 60% slopes.

Current condition – Contiguous aspen with significant conifer encroachment.

Treatment – Hand slash all conifers <24"dbh within and immediately adjacent to this stand. Non-commercial; the intent of this treatment is to remove encroaching conifers from this stand. No roads should be constructed within this stand; slash should be left on-site.

Unit 63 – 61 ac., 30 – 60% slopes.

Current condition – Mature ponderosa pine/Doug. fir dominant, dense Doug fir (100 – 400) stems per ac. 80 – 160 sq. ft. avg. basal area per ac.

Treatment – Thin to a BA of 20 – 80 sq. ft. residual. Retention should favor older age class Doug fir, ponderosa pine and western larch. Retain Douglas fir, ponderosa pine and larch > 24" dbh to the extent possible to meet BA prescription.

Unit 64 – 72 ac., 20 – 60% slopes.

Current condition – Primarily mature Doug fir overstory with dense Doug fir understory. Recent wind event caused significant blowdown, attracting Doug fir beetles. Some lodgepole/subalpine fir in west and northeast portions of stand. 100 – 250 sq. ft. per ac. BA, average. Regeneration 100 – 300 trees/ac.

Treatment – Thin to a mean BA of 100 sq. ft. per ac. Retain older age class Douglas fir as variable patch mosaic; retain Douglas fir, ponderosa pine and larch > 24" dbh to the extent possible while meeting the BA prescription. Salvage timber from wind event, as feasible.

Unit 66 – 39 ac., 30 – 60% slopes.

Current condition – Intermediate to mature Douglas fir, lodgepole pine, larch, with lesser mature ponderosa pine. 80 – 160 sq. ft. per ac. BA, average. Regeneration 100 – 300 trees/ac.

Treatment – Variable retention thinning to a BA of 20 – 80 sq. ft. residual. Retention should favor older age class Doug fir, ponderosa pine and western larch. Retain Douglas fir, ponderosa pine and larch > 24" dbh to the extent possible to meet BA prescription.

Unit 67 – 65 ac., 0 – 60% slopes.

Current condition – Mix of lodgepole pine and Douglas fir with lesser amounts of ponderosa pine. 80 – 160 sq. ft. per ac. BA, average. Regeneration 100 – 300 trees/ac.

Treatment – Group selection harvest; mosaic of patches ½ - 1 ac. in size and comprising > 15% of treatment area will be retained. Harvest will be focused on diseased trees in less steep terrain.

Unit 99 – 33 ac., 20 – 60% slopes.

Current condition – Stand is a combination of dense lodgepole pine and intermediate to mature Douglas fir, larch, and ponderosa pine. Significant mountain pine beetle infestation of lodgepole pine. 80 – 160 sq. ft. per ac. BA, average. Regeneration 100 – 300 trees/ac.

Treatment – Group selection treatment of lodgepole pine. Retain older age class Douglas fir, larch, and ponderosa pine at 20 – 80 sq. ft. per ac. Retain Douglas fir, ponderosa pine and larch > 24" dbh to the extent possible to meet BA prescription.

## **CONTRACTOR OBLIGATIONS**

The contractor is providing all manpower; equipments; fuels and materials.

- Follow Habitat Management prescriptions noted above, with regular contact with FWP to discuss how closely the prescriptions can actually be followed.

- **THINNING INDICATED STANDS TO STATED BASAL AREA WITH APPROPRIATE RETENTION OF OLDER AGE CLASS DOUGLAS FIR, LARCH, AND PONDEROSA PINE.**
- **PATCH CUTTING LODGEPOLE PINE STANDS.**
- **REMOVING CONIFERS FROM ASPEN STAND (STAND 62).**
- **ROAD NEEDS: BOTH ROAD IMPROVEMENT, TEMPORARY ROAD CONSTRUCTION, AND OBLITERATION OF TEMPORARY ROADS**
- **WEED CONTROL**
- **MEETING HRA REQUIREMENTS FOR SLASH DISPOSAL**
- **MEETING FORESTRY BMP'S**
- **MEETING SMZ LAW**
- Provide timber value estimates for each stand that is part of contract at the beginning of the project. FWP MUST RECEIVE FAIR MARKET VALUE OF TIMBER FROM MILL. Contractor will then be paid from the timber receipts. Therefore Contractor must obtain State Fair Market Value from Mill and have that cash on hand as the project revenue.
- Provide written cost estimates for implementation of each stand objective, including road construction/upgrade; clean up; post project weed management; rehabilitation to disturbed areas. This will be reported in two phases: Phase I is cost of timber cruise; cost estimates oversight and reporting. Phase II is the logging and restoration.
- Provide a competitive bid process following State procedures for logging/clean up/rehabilitation if Contractor does not perform these duties himself.
- Provide monthly accounting to the State for cost for work performed; revenue generated and general administration of payments and revenue for all aspects of contract.
- Maintain regular communication with the local FWP wildlife biologist to address any concerns with the project during and after logging operations and to make any adjustments to the implementation of the project.
- All decisions regarding selection of subcontractors, disbursement of funds, and all project administration shall be conveyed to the State. The State reserves the right to alter these decisions as it deems necessary.

## **FWP OBLIGATIONS**

FWP will provide oversight based on the documentation entitled "Forest Habitat Improvement Plan for the Ovando Mountain Unit of the Blackfoot-Clearwater Wildlife Management Area" ;Figures 1 &2 in RFP; and FWP objectives identified by stand as described above.

FWP liaison, Jay Kolbe (210-9830) or Steve Knapp(444-4717), will be available as needed to answer questions and give directions.

## **CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS**

- All costs will be attempted to be paid for by revenues generated by the sale of timber products.
- Contract stipulations for road building and obliteration and weed control: All new roads built to minimum standards and to be obliterated after project. Seeded with native seed mix per FWP liaison. Spray existing weeds within areas of tree cutting, roads and other disturbed areas.
- Deadline for all logging activity is December 31, 2010.



- Summary of work by stand number as indicated above: state final basal area; identify bug killed trees removed by general area on a map; patch cut locations within lodgepole pine shown on map; identify aspen clone where conifers were removed on a map. Representative pictures will suffice.
- Documentation of quantity of timber cut by stand number from timber mill receipts.
- Contractor will adhere to Forestry BMP's; Streamside Management Zone law; and Hazard Reduction Agreement.
- Three hard copy reports and one CD will be form of report delivery.

**Project outcome will be the attainment of defined Stand Habitat Objectives as stated above.**

## **5. CONSIDERATION/PAYMENT**

**5.1 Payment Schedule.** In consideration for the Services as defined in item#4 above to be provided, the State shall pay according to the following schedule:

- 1.FWP WILL USE TASK ORDER BASIS(hourly rates) with an initial estimate of whether project will generate revenue or cost the state money, and an estimate of gain or loss by timber stand.
- 2.COMPANY WILL INFORM FWP MONTHLY OF COSTS INCURRED AND DOLLARS GENERATED.
- 3.FWP WILL DETERMINE WHETHER PROJECT CAN CONTINUE TO PROCEED BASED ON THE COST/REVENUE RATIO. FWP WOULD LIKE PROJECT TO BE REVENUE NEUTRAL.
- 4.FWP WILL RECEIVE COPIES OF TIMBER MILL RECEIPTS MONTHLY.
5. AT END OF PROJECT, COMPANY WILL REMIT TO FWP UNUSED REVENUE OR FWP WILL REIMBURSE COMPANY FOR INCURRED COSTS NOT COVERED BY TIMBER REVENUE.

**5.2 Withholding of Payment.** The State may withhold payments to the Contractor if the Contractor has not performed in accordance with this contract. Such withholding cannot be greater than the additional costs to the State caused by the lack of performance.

## **6. ACCESS AND RETENTION OF RECORDS**

**6.1 Access to Records.** The Contractor agrees to provide the State, Legislative Auditor or their authorized agents access to any records necessary to determine contract compliance. (Section 18-1-118, MCA)

**6.2 Retention Period.** The Contractor agrees to create and retain records supporting the Ovando Mtn. Forest Management Project for a period of three years after either the completion date of this contract or the conclusion of any claim, litigation, or exception relating to this contract taken by the State of Montana or a third party.

## **7. ASSIGNMENT, TRANSFER, AND SUBCONTRACTING**

The Contractor shall not assign, transfer, or subcontract any portion of this contract without the express written consent of the State. (Section 18-4-141, MCA) The Contractor shall be responsible to the State for the acts and omissions of all subcontractors or agents and of persons directly or indirectly employed by such subcontractors, and for the acts and omissions of persons employed directly by the Contractor. No contractual relationships exist between any subcontractor and the State.

## **8. HOLD HARMLESS/INDEMNIFICATION**

The Contractor agrees to protect, defend, and save the State, its elected and appointed officials, agents, and employees, while acting within the scope of their duties as such, harmless from and against all claims, demands, causes of action of any kind or character, including the cost of defense thereof, arising in favor of the Contractor's employees or third parties on account of bodily or personal injuries, death, or damage to property arising out of services performed or omissions of services or in any way resulting from the acts or omissions of the Contractor and/or its agents, employees, representatives, assigns, subcontractors, except the sole negligence of the State, under this agreement.

## **9. REQUIRED INSURANCE**

**9.1 General Requirements.** The Contractor shall maintain for the duration of the contract, at its cost and expense, insurance against claims for injuries to persons or damages to property, including contractual

liability, which may arise from or in connection with the performance of the work by the Contractor, agents, employees, representatives, assigns, or subcontractors. This insurance shall cover such claims as may be caused by any negligent act or omission.

**9.2 Primary Insurance.** The Contractor's insurance coverage shall be primary insurance with respect to the State, its officers, officials, employees, and volunteers and shall apply separately to each project or location. Any insurance or self-insurance maintained by the State, its officers, officials, employees or volunteers shall be excess of the Contractor's insurance and shall not contribute with it.

**9.3 Specific Requirements for Commercial General Liability.** The Contractor shall purchase and maintain occurrence coverage with combined single limits for bodily injury, personal injury, and property damage of **\$300,000** per occurrence and **\$600,000** aggregate per year to cover such claims as may be caused by any act, omission, or negligence of the Contractor or its officers, agents, representatives, assigns, or subcontractors.

The State, its officers, officials, employees, and volunteers are to be covered and listed as additional insureds; for liability arising out of activities performed by or on behalf of the Contractor, including the insured's general supervision of the Contractor; products, and completed operations; premises owned, leased, occupied, or used.

**9.4 Specific Requirements for Automobile Liability.** The Contractor shall purchase and maintain coverage with split limits of \$500,000 per person (personal injury), \$1,000,000 per accident occurrence (personal injury), and \$100,000 per accident occurrence (property damage), OR combined single limits of \$1,000,000 per occurrence to cover such claims as may be caused by any act, omission, or negligence of the contractor or its officers, agents, representatives, assigns, or subcontractors.

The State, its officers, officials, employees, and volunteers are to be covered and listed as additional insureds for automobiles leased, hired, or borrowed by the Contractor.

**9.5 Specific Requirements for Professional Liability.** The Contractor shall purchase and maintain occurrence coverage with combined single limits for each wrongful act of \$1,000,000 per occurrence and \$2,000,000 aggregate per year to cover such claims as may be caused by any act, omission, negligence of the Contractor or its officers, agents, representatives, assigns, or subcontractors. Note: if "occurrence" coverage is unavailable or cost prohibitive, the Contractor may provide "claims made" coverage provided the following conditions are met: (1) the commencement date of the contract must not fall outside the effective date of insurance coverage and it will be the retroactive date for insurance coverage in future years; and (2) the claims made policy must have a three-year tail for claims that are made (filed) after the cancellation or expiration date of the policy.

**9.6 Deductibles and Self-Insured Retentions.** Any deductible or self-insured retention must be declared to and approved by the state agency. At the request of the agency either: (1) the insurer shall reduce or eliminate such deductibles or self-insured retentions as respects the State, its officers, officials, employees, or volunteers; or (2) at the expense of the Contractor, the Contractor shall procure a bond guaranteeing payment of losses and related investigations, claims administration, and defense expenses.

**9.7 Certificate of Insurance/Endorsements.** A certificate of insurance from an insurer with a Best's rating of no less than A- indicating compliance with the required coverages, has been received by the FWP Purchasing Department, P.O. Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701. The Contractor must notify the State immediately, of any material change in insurance coverage, such as changes in limits, coverages, change in status of policy, etc. The State reserves the right to require complete copies of insurance policies at all times.

## 10. **COMPLIANCE WITH WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT**

Contractors are required to comply with the provisions of the Montana Workers' Compensation Act while performing work for the State of Montana in accordance with sections 39-71-401, 39-71-405, and 39-71-417, MCA. Proof of compliance must be in the form of workers' compensation insurance, an independent contractor's exemption, or documentation of corporate officer status. Neither the contractor nor its employees are employees of the State. This insurance/exemption must be valid for the entire term of the contract. A renewal document must be sent to the State Procurement Bureau, P.O. Box 200135, Helena, MT 59620-0135, upon expiration.

## 11. **COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS**

The Contractor must, in performance of work under this contract, fully comply with all applicable federal, state, or local laws, rules, and regulations, including the Montana Human Rights Act, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Any subletting or subcontracting by the Contractor subjects subcontractors to the same provision. In accordance with section 49-3-207, MCA, the Contractor agrees that the hiring of persons to perform the contract will be made on the basis of merit and qualifications and there will be no discrimination based upon race, color, religion, creed, political ideas, sex, age, marital status, physical or mental disability, or national origin by the persons performing the contract.

## 12. **CONTRACT TERMINATION**

**12.1 Termination for Cause.** The State may, by written notice to the Contractor, terminate this contract in whole or in part at any time the Contractor fails to perform this contract.

**12.2 Reduction of Funding.** The State must terminate this contract if funds are not appropriated or otherwise made available to support the State's continuation of performance of this contract in a subsequent fiscal period. (See section 18-4-313(4), MCA.)

## 13. **LIAISON AND SERVICE OF NOTICES**

All project management and coordination on behalf of the State shall be through a single point of contact designated as the State's liaison. Contractor shall designate a liaison that will provide the single point of contact for management and coordination of Contractor's work. All work performed pursuant to this contract shall be coordinated between the State's liaison and the Contractor's

\_\_\_\_\_ will be the liaison for the State.

(Address):

Telephone:

Cell Phone:

Fax: n/a

E-mail: jkolbe@mt.gov

\_\_\_\_\_ will be the liaison for the Contractor.

(Address):

(City, State, ZIP):

Telephone:

Cell Phone:

Fax:

E-mail:

The State's liaison and Contractor's liaison may be changed by written notice to the other party. Written notices, requests, or complaints will first be directed to the liaison.

#### **14. MEETINGS**

The Contractor is required to meet with the State's personnel, or designated representatives, to resolve technical or contractual problems that may occur during the term of the contract or to discuss the progress made by Contractor and the State in the performance of their respective obligations, at no additional cost to the State. Meetings will occur as problems arise and will be coordinated by the State. The Contractor will be given a minimum of three full working days notice of meeting date, time, and location. Face-to-face meetings are desired. However, at the Contractor's option and expense, a conference call meeting may be substituted. Consistent failure to participate in problem resolution meetings two consecutive missed or rescheduled meetings, or to make a good faith effort to resolve problems, may result in termination of the contract.

#### **15. CONTRACTOR PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENTS**

The State may do assessments of the Contractor's performance. This contract may be terminated for one or more poor performance assessments. Contractors will have the opportunity to respond to poor performance assessments. The State will make any final decision to terminate this contract based on the assessment and any related information, the Contractor's response and the severity of any negative performance assessment. The Contractor will be notified with a justification of contract termination. Performance assessments may be considered in future solicitations.

#### **16. TRANSITION ASSISTANCE**

If this contract is not renewed at the end of this term, or is terminated prior to the completion of a project, or if the work on a project is terminated, for any reason, the Contractor must provide for a reasonable period of time after the expiration or termination of this project or contract, all reasonable transition assistance requested by the State, to allow for the expired or terminated portion of the services to continue without interruption or adverse effect, and to facilitate the orderly transfer of such services to the State or its designees. Such transition assistance will be deemed by the parties to be governed by the terms and conditions of this contract, except for those terms or conditions that do not reasonably apply to such transition assistance. The State shall pay the Contractor for any resources utilized in performing such transition assistance at the most current rates provided by the contract. If there are no established contract rates, then the rate shall be mutually agreed upon. If the State terminates a project or this contract for cause, then the State will be entitled to offset the cost of paying the Contractor for the additional resources the Contractor utilized in providing transition assistance with any damages the State may have otherwise accrued as a result of said termination.

#### **17. CHOICE OF LAW AND VENUE**

This contract is governed by the laws of Montana. The parties agree that any litigation concerning this bid, proposal or subsequent contract must be brought in the First Judicial District in and for the County of Lewis and Clark, State of Montana and each party shall pay its own costs and attorney fees. (See section 18-1-401, MCA.)

#### **18. SCOPE, AMENDMENT, AND INTERPRETATION**

**18.1 Contract.** This contract consists of (insert number) numbered pages, any Attachments as required, RFP # (insert RFP number), as amended and the Contractor's RFP response as amended. In the case of dispute or ambiguity about the minimum levels of performance by the Contractor the order of precedence of document interpretation is in the same order.

**18.2 Entire Agreement.** These documents contain the entire agreement of the parties. Any enlargement, alteration or modification requires a written amendment signed by both parties.

**19. EXECUTION**

The parties through their authorized agents have executed this contract on the dates set out below.

(INSERT AGENCY NAME)

(Insert Address)

Insert City, State, Zip)

(INSERT CONTRACTOR'S NAME)

(Insert Address)

(Insert City, State, Zip)

FEDERAL ID #

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name/Title)

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name/Title)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved as to Legal Content:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Counsel (Date)

## APPENDIX C: RFP RESPONSE FORM

(USE ADDITIONAL SHEETS AS NECESSARY)

1. Offeror must provide a signed copy of the RFP Cover Sheet.
2. Offeror has read, understood, and agrees to comply with the items contained in Sections 1, 2, 3, 6, and Appendices A and B.

Agreed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Offeror's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**OFFEROR MUST PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION THAT WILL BE EVALUATED BY THE RFP EVALUATOR/EVALUATION COMMITTEE:**

3. References (Section 4.1.1), page 13 of the RFP.
4. Resumes/Company Profile and Experience (Section 4.1.1), page 14 of the RFP.
  - A. Years of Experience (Section 4.1.1), page 14 of the RFP.
  - B. Past Projects (Section 4.1.1), page 14 of the RFP.
  - C. Staff Qualifications (Section 4.1.1), page 14 of the RFP.
5. Method of Providing Services (Section 4.1.2), page 14 of the RFP.
6. Cost Proposal (Section 5.0), page 15 of the RFP.
7. **Completeness of Proposal.** An offeror's response must be complete at the time of submittal and contain all the reference materials necessary to provide a complete response to the RFP. An offeror making the statement "Refer to our literature..." or "Please see www.....com" may be deemed nonresponsive or receive point deductions. If making reference to materials located in another section of the RFP response, specific page numbers and sections must be noted. **The Evaluator/Evaluation Committee is not required to search through literature or another section of the proposal to find a response.**
8. **Number of Copies and Due Date.** Offerors must submit **one original and three copies** to the address listed below. The State reserves the right to request an electronic copy of the RFP response. Proposals must be received at the receptionist's desk of the State Procurement Bureau prior to **2:00 p.m., local time, May 25,2010**. Proposals received after this time will not be accepted for consideration. Facsimile or electronic submissions are not acceptable.

Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks  
Purchasing  
930 Custer Ave. West (Delivered)  
P.O. Box 200701 (Mailed)  
Helena, MT 59620-0135



Figure 1.

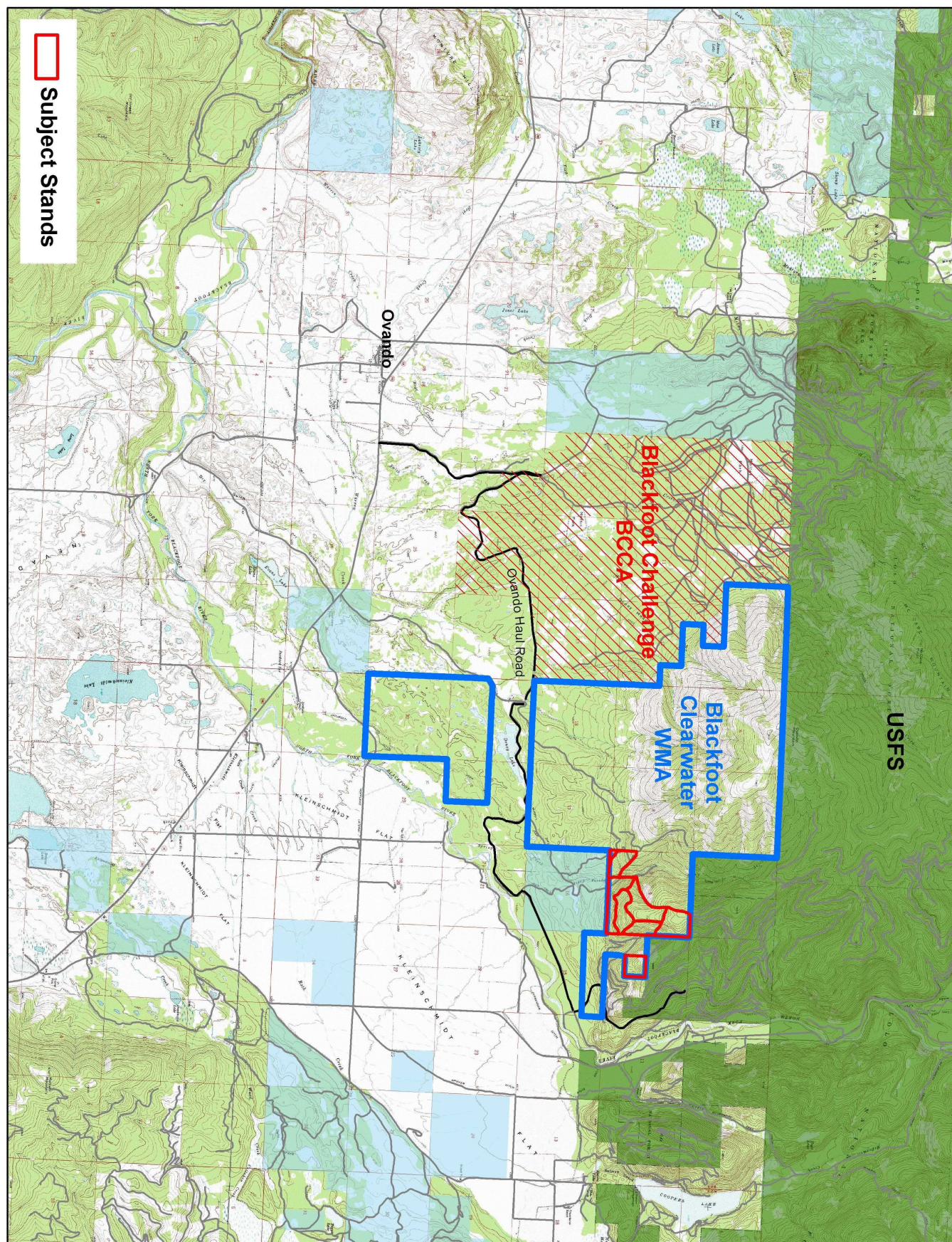




Figure 2.

